

## Youth NEWS



The next Family/Youth Devotional will be hosted by Archana Verma on **Saturday, September 30.**

## Education NEWS

### In Search of the Lord's Way

The lesson for Sunday, October 1 at 7:30 a.m. on KMOL is entitled, "What Happens at Death." No one lives forever, but what will happen to us when we die? Each of us must face this event in our lives, so knowing what will happen and preparing for the after-life is vitally important.

### SUNDAYS

**Bible Classes .....9:00 AM**  
**Morning Worship .....10:00 AM**  
**Evening Worship ..... 5:00 PM**

### *Tuesdays (September through May)*

**Men's Bible Study ..... 10:00 AM**  
**Ladies' Bible Study..... 10:00 AM**

### WEDNESDAYS

**Midweek Bible Study ..... 7:00 PM**

### EVANGELIST

Ronnie Scherffius

### SUPPORTED WORKS

James and Emily Cammock  
*Hamilton, New Zealand*

John Moore  
*Bible Land Passages*

Mani Pagidipalli, M.D.  
*India*

Cecil Shaw  
*Ocho Rios, Jamaica*

Student Support  
*Southwest School of Bible Studies*

THE MIDTOWN MESSENGER IS THE WEEKLY BULLETIN  
OF THE MIDTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST, 5901 N. MAIN,  
VICTORIA, TEXAS 77904 . 361-573-0030  
[www.midtowncoc.org](http://www.midtowncoc.org)

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR MID-TOWN MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

# The Midtown CHURCH OF CHRIST Messenger

SEPTEMBER 24, 2017

## "NO WONDER YOUR BACK HURTS!"

by Ronnie Scherffius

A story is told of two men walking through the countryside on their way to visit friends. As they walked, they noticed an elderly lady sitting at the edge of a river. She was upset because there was no bridge and she could not get across on her own. The first man kindly offered, "We will carry you across if you would like."

"Thank you, but I do not want to trouble you." She replied. The man insisted until finally she gratefully accepted the help and the two men, joining their hands, lifted her between them and carried her across the river. Reaching the other side they set her down and she went on her way.

After walking a mile or so the second man began to complain. "Look at my clothes, they are filthy from carrying that woman across the river. And my back still hurts from lifting her. I can feel it getting stiff." The first man just smiled and nodded his head.

A few more miles up the road, he continued mumbling, "This pain in my back is worsening...it's all because of that silly woman...we would already have reached our destination..." Finally, he stopped and said, "I cannot go any farther because of this pain."

Sitting in the shade of a great oak sulking because of his "hardship" the man looked up at his

fellow traveller and inquired, "Why aren't you complaining? You're as wet and filthy as I am and I know your back must be hurting, you're older than I am. Why, I've heard your wife speak often of the back problems you have."

The kindly man looked down at his friend and said, "Your back hurts because you are still carrying the woman. I set her down five miles ago."

It is a sad fact but there are many Christians who harbor ill will and spite toward others, even their own brethren! I know of one local congregation where hard feelings of the past remain so prominent in the minds of some of its members that when speaking to those who attend there, they still talk about it to this day – twenty years after the fact! Harsh feelings toward others will do nothing but destroy us from the inside out – individually as Christians and collectively as congregations! Paul warned the Galatian Christians not to "bite and devour one

another” (Gal. 5:15), and the Corinthian church was so divided among itself that Paul devoted an entire on the supremacy of love (1 Cor. 13).

The harboring of hard feelings and ill will toward anyone, especially our Christian brethren, only hinders us from being the best we can be and from doing the most and best we can for the kingdom. We read of Paul and Barnabas separating themselves from one another because of contention over Mark (Acts 15:39), but we see in the later writings of Paul that the contention between these men did not continue but was overcome. In fact, Paul speaks of Mark as being “profitable” to him in his labors and desiring him to be present with him (2 Tim. 4:11).

It is often the case that contention among brethren is rooted in jealousy and is spurred forward by one’s desire to see his or her ideas put forth. Hard feelings can also exist when one feels put off, overlooked, or feels that he has not received due gratitude for his labors and sacrifice. Whatever the case, where such feelings exist confusion and disorder rules. James wrote of such circumstances:

“Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. <sup>14</sup>But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. <sup>15</sup>This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. <sup>16</sup>For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. <sup>17</sup>But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without

## BACK TO THE BIBLE

### MidTown’s Fall Gospel Meeting



*You are invited to attend a series of gospel sermons.*

**Sept. 24-27**

**Sunday, Sept. 24 at 9 a.m.**

- *“What You Need To Know About The Bible”*

**Sunday, Sept. 24 at 10 a.m.**

- *“The First Christians In The Bible”*

**Sunday, Sept. 24 at 1 p.m.**

- *“The Church of The Bible”*

**Monday, Sept. 25 at 7 p.m.**

- *“Passages That Have Helped Me Live The Bible”*

**Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.**

- *“What The Bible Says About Hell”*

**Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7 p.m.**

- *“What The Bible Says About Heaven”*

hypocrisy. <sup>18</sup>Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.” (James 3:13-18 NKJV)

While we may be saddened or even angered by the way situations and circumstances of the past have fallen out, we can only affect the way things are in the present and will be in the future. Rather than dwell on things of the past, why not learn and grow from them and then forget about them.

## News

### & ACTIVITIES

**Today!** There will be a potluck meal following morning services with evening service moved to 1 p.m.



**Sunday, October 1** The Monthly Men’s Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m.

- Brookdale service is cancelled until further notice because of building damage.
- Please see the thank you notes posted on the hallway bulletin board.
- A reminder that there will not be any children classes this Wednesday.

Records You Helped Make  
For the Week of  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

#### Attendance

Sunday Bible Class.....|29  
Sunday Morning Assembly.....|38  
Sunday Evening Assembly.....|16  
Wednesday Attendance.....94

**Offering: \$4,408**

## Keep in PRAYER

### RESPONSE:

Please keep **Steve Randle** in prayer who responded Sunday.

### MidTown Members:

Buster Bailey  
Jeff Cannady  
Les Daltry  
Jan Farris  
Faye Henderson

Dee Gilpatrick  
Betty Key  
Kathy Laws  
Susie Mesa  
Sandy Malone  
Ann Pantel  
Glenodine Pitts  
Paul Purswell  
Mickey Tisue

### & Friends Family:

Victor Benitez,  
*brother of Virginia Escojido*  
Bert Haynes,  
*father of Pam Stryker*  
Kim Neel-Farthing,  
*daughter of Joyce*  
Gillette Ferguson,  
*brother in Vernal, Utah*  
June Green,  
*mother of Janice FitzSimmons*  
Rose Leske,  
*sister-in-law of Sandra Marie*  
Barbara Lopez,  
*mother of Rosalba Barton*  
Liz Lopez,  
*friend of Nina Siegel*

Janell Marshall  
*family of Karon Barton*  
Fred Porter,  
*brother-in-law of Della Rampley*  
Sarah Randle,  
*mother of Steve*  
Harish Reddy,  
*brother-in-law of Archana Verma*  
Brian Rutherford,  
*Nephew of Clifton*  
Sammy Snead,  
*brother-in-law of Ronnie Scherffius*  
Prem Verma,  
*father-in-law of Archana*  
Kennedy Young, Sr.,  
*uncle of Naomi Flonnory*